

Appn. No. 09/961,362
Amendment dated: October 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant makes note of paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Examiner's Office Action. In the above-noted Office Action, the Examiner opined that unamended claims 1-21 were anticipated by Huddleston (US 5,099,348).

Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18 and 19 to better define the invention.

Regarding paragraph 2 of the Examiner's Office Action, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objections by noting that Huddleston and the present invention are directed towards different ends and technical fields.

Applicant respectfully submits that Huddleston is directed towards a status display for use in electrical load management systems or for use in cable television systems. On the other hand, the present invention relates to systems, methods, and devices relating to optical components and control systems for them for use in optical networking. The device in Huddleston is, as noted in col. 22, lines 8-9, is used to "gather the status information and display same". Furthermore, the optical characteristic of the device in Huddleston is merely incidental as it is noted that "other techniques may be employed to transmit commands from the display unit 12 to the receiver 10, for example, by substituting an optical, audio frequency, ultra sonic frequency, or other energy transmission device for the RF transmitter ..." (Col 18, lines 61-65). The clear intent and nub of the invention in Huddleston is found in the passage "[t]he important consideration in the provision of a bidirectional communication link...so that the receiver can be stimulated to retrieve prestored status data and transmit same to the display unit for display to the operator...". The use of optics in Huddleston is merely as a "convenient" means of transferring prestored data from a receiver for display on a display unit.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above is quite different from the subject

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matter of the present invention as defined by the present claims. Specifically, the amended independent claims 1, 6, 10, 12, 14, and 17 specify that the optical devices being controlled by the subcontroller are for use in optical networking. Applicant respectfully submits that this specificity removes the present claim set from the ambit of Huddleston as nothing in Huddleston discloses, hints, or even suggests optical networking. Since Huddleston and the present invention relate to different subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that Huddleston cannot anticipate the present invention.

Based on the above points and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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